

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0895

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, MZ

SUBJ: MOZAMBIQUE - EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES A-154

1. IN MEETING WITH RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF LOURENCO MARQUES (ULM), HE GAVE US FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND OPINIONS RE FRELIMO-DOMINATED TRANSITIONAL MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN FIELD OF EDUCATION:

(A) MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE IN EDUCATION FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES BUT WILL ONLY CONSIDER ACCEPTING THEM IF GOP IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE NEEDED ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY STATED IN LUSAKA AGREEMENT, RECTOR BELIEVES GOP MAY HAVE COMMITTED ITSELF TO PROVIDE THIS ASSISTANCE.

(B) MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT IS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED ACCEPT EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FROM BRAZIL. RECTOR SURMISED THAT FRELIMO MAY FEAR "NEOCOLONIALISM" FROM BRAZIL, EITHER IN ITS OWN RIGHT OR AS AGENT FOR US.

2. RE OUR REGULAR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM, RECTOR SUGGESTS
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WE ADDRESS LETTER TO HIM REFERRING TO PAST COOPERATION WITH

ULM IN OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS AND REITERATING OFFER FOR COMING YEAR. RECTOR WOULD THEN TAKE UP SUBJECT WITH MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT. WE AGREED DO SO.

3. ON SUBJECT OF RESIDENT AMERICAN PROFESSOR FOR ULM, RECTOR (WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN VERY ENTHUSIASTIC) SAID HE BELIEVED IT BEST FOR US TO PRESENT HIM SPECIFIC POSSIBILITIES OF PROFESSOR IN TECHNICAL OR SCIENTIFIC FIELD--(E.G., FORESTRY, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS). HE WOULD THEN DISCUSS OFFER WITH MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT. HE IS AWARE THAT US FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR WOULD MOST LIKELY BE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1975/76, THOUGH GREATEST NEED IS FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR. (EXODUS HAS HURT ULM SERIOUSLY AND PORTUGAL PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ABLE FILL VACANCIES CREATED.)

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW REPORTED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT'S REPORTED ATTITUDE ON FOREIGN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE, WE BELIEVE IT PRUDENT TO LEAVE INITIATIVE TO RECTOR RATHER THAN PRESS THE GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY OURSELVES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO PROFESSOR FOR ULM. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE CONGEN RE CHANCES OF FINDING PROFESSOR, PERHAPS CURRENTLY ON SABBATICAL LEAVE, TO TEACH AT ULM IN SECOND SEMESTER 1974/75. IF, BY SOME MIRACLE, WELL-QUALIFIED PROFESSOR COULD BE FOUND (NEED NOT KNOW PORTUGUESE) WE COULD THEN PRESENT NAME AND QUALIFICATIONS TO RECTOR. AS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR OF 75/76, WHEN WOULD SEARCH FOR PROFESSOR HAVE TO BEGIN?
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